

Delta Vision “Delta as Place” Workgroup
Progress Report to Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
February 28, 2008

Key points of discussion among group

1. Three time periods for strategic planning in the Delta landscape:
 - Pre-disaster risk assessment and planning;
 - During-the-disaster emergency response;
 - Post-disaster recovery.
2. Different areas of the Delta have different character. There is a potential goal of classification of Delta landscape (according to land use, ecological, levee stability, economic, and social criteria) for purposes of strategic planning.
3. “Special designation” should recognize need for local communities to have viable economic futures and tax bases.
4. Need to concentrate any new growth where infrastructure already exists and keep it out of farmland, floodplains and habitat. Possible strategies include transfers of development rights.
5. Flood hazard versus flood risk. Risk = hazard x economic loss from flood. Improving levees can lower hazard but increase risk, if new development moves in behind levee.
6. Classification of levees according to what they protect. Five key things are protected by levees: People; Infrastructure; Water conveyance; Salinity control; Navigation. Need to balance the failure risk with the value of what is being protected in making investment decisions.

Selected performance measures discussed

- Recovery time of local communities and assets
- Conformance of new development with Delta’s landscape character (or different characters of Delta sub-regions)
- Extension of historic growth rate of approx. 1.8% annually
- Average parcel sizes, or number of parcels in different size classes
- Number of housing units or major subdivisions below sea level or in deep floodplains
- Specific numbers of miles of roads, utility lines, protected by enhanced levees
- Amount of investment and upgrades to various levees classes (classes may be determined by what the levees protect, e.g. urbanized areas, infrastructure, etc.)
- Flood stage at key points within Delta
- Flood risk (hazard multiplied by economic consequences of flood) at key points within Delta